(d) the reasons for handing over these coal to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) The Government have allocated following coal blocks in the command area of Western Coalfields Limited located in the Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh to Government/private companies for captive mining:—

Name of the block	Name of the allocattee
Mandla South	M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation
Mandla North	M/s. Jaiprakash Associates Limited
Sial-Ghoghri	M/s. Prism Cement Limited
Rawanwara North	M/s. SKS Ispat Limited
Brahampuri	M/s. Pushp Steel and Mining Limited

Further, Government have identified two more coal blocks namely Tandsi-III & Extn. and Thesgora-B/Rudrapur, located in Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh and invited applications for allocation of these blocks, for captive use. These two coal blocks have been earmarked for allocation for captive use of production of iron and steel and production of cement to eligible companies based on relative merit. No company has been identified for allocation as yet.

(d) As per the provisions of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973, coal blocks are allocated to eligible companies both public and private, to bridge the gap between demand and supply. The blocks identified are those which are not required by Coal India Limited for their production programme upto the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

BSNL Mobile connections in Kerala

3252. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is a vast mismatch between demand for BSNL mobile connections in the State of Kerala and the capacity of the organisation to give connections; and

if so, how Government proposes to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATipN TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing mobile connections in Kerala Circle on demand for the current year. In addition, purchase orders have already been placed for 10.15 lakh lines capacity expansion of mobile network in Kerala Circle.

(b) The connections are being provided on demand. The position will further improve on expansion of mobile network as stated in (a) above.

Status of private operators

3253. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

the status of the private operators who have been issued Letter of Intents (Lois); and

the time-frame by which they can operate their services?